Mr. Leonard Downie, Jr.
Executive Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702
6/12/94

Dear Mr. Downie,

"We often write news stories about books when they are newsworthy," Joann Byrd today quotes you as saying. I hope you will consider doing that with my current Case Open (Carroll & Graf/Richard Gallen) not as a JFK assassination book but as an expose of the crudest and most brazen of the exploitations and commercializations of that great tragedy, the knowingly mistitled Case Closed, by Gerald Posner (Random House) and of the major media abdication of all responsibility in extolling it.

With the Post, thanks to Jeffrey Frank, a notable exception. (Although in printing Posner's dishonest comment it failed to note for its readers that he lied - but then he has trouble telling the truth even by accident.)

(Please excuse my typing. I'm 81 now and in impaired health. My typing cannot be any better.)

What was published is but a fraction of what I wrote and the haste in publication is, I regret, only too obvious. But what I wrote and what is published stacks. I refer to Posner as a plagiarist, using his own publisher's definition of it, as a shyster, same definition, and as a deliberate liar, among other things. I have yet to hear a word from Posner, from Random House or from any lawyer speaking for either.

With the exception of George Lardner, who informed Frank and who makes the Post an exception in its reporting of assassination information news, almost nobody at all did any checking on that most dishonest of books while all the media vied in making a supersensation of all its lies, thus misleading and misinforming the people.

It was even considered for the Pulitzer in history and the panel was loud in its protests when it was ignored!

The rights were sold so widely I have an issue of an outback Australian standard-size paper that gave Posner and his fraud three full pages. You may recall the attention U.S.News gave it, without any checking - and that for a book without any peer reviews.

Can you recall any grosser or more successful disinformations? And the one book that documents its exposure of it has been entirely ignored.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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